



# OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

November 2024 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## May your holidays be merry and bright

As November begins, it's hard to believe the holiday season is just around the corner, bringing family, friends and festive celebrations. While this time of year fills our homes with joy and warmth, the cooler weather and increased indoor activities also bring higher energy use and a greater risk of electrical and fire hazards.

At Owen Electric, safety is our priority. This month, I'd like to offer some practical tips to help you stay safe and energy-efficient during the holidays.

### Safety first

Decorating for the holidays is something my family looks forward to each year. But before we hang a single light, I always inspect electrical cords and light strands to ensure they're in good condition and free of frays or damage. This simple step gives us peace of mind, knowing our lights are ready to safely brighten our home. I also double check that any outdoor lights are properly rated for outdoor use.

Like many families, we love burning holiday-scented candles. While they add a festive touch, candles can also be a fire hazard if left unattended. One of the easiest ways to protect your home is to regularly test smoke alarms. I test mine on the first of each month—it only

takes a few seconds and could be life-saving. Make it a routine in your home as well.

### 'Tis the season for savings

Spending more time indoors—often with extra guests—can lead to a spike in energy use. Fortunately, a few simple steps can help keep your energy bills in check during the holiday season.

One of the easiest ways to save is by adjusting the thermostat. Since heating accounts for much of home energy consumption, lowering the temperature by a few degrees, especially when entertaining guests, can make a noticeable difference. After all, good company brings its own warmth.

You can also reduce energy use by using LED holiday lights. These lights are not only more energy efficient than traditional bulbs but also last much longer.

And of course, the holiday season is a time for delicious meals and quality time in the kitchen. To save energy, consider using small countertop appliances like air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. They use significantly less energy than your full-sized oven, making them a smart choice for both cooking and saving.




Pam McAlister and Christel Buffin spend their community service day helping Ronald McDonald House of the Bluegrass decorate for Christmas. Photo: Whitney Duvall

We hope you'll incorporate these safety and energy-saving tips into your holiday plans. For more helpful advice, visit our website at [owenelectric.com/101-ways-save](http://owenelectric.com/101-ways-save). We're here to support you with safety and savings all year long.

From all of us at your electric co-op, we wish you a safe, merry and bright holiday season!

President and CEO  
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



# Honor Flight returns

We are thrilled to announce the success of this year's Honor Flight, proudly sponsored by Owen Electric, in partnership with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. This annual event honors our nation's veterans, offering

them the opportunity to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C., as a token of gratitude for their service and sacrifices.

Owen Electric sponsored members Phillip Rhea, of Petersburg, and Jesse Nowlin, of Owenton, on the Honor Flight, which was organized by Honor Flight Kentucky, based in Lexington.

The day included viewing the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Honor Flight representatives participated in a wreath-laying service at the tomb.

Calling it a humbling experience, Nowlin says it was a day he will never forget.

"The way everyone at Honor Flight and Owen Electric treated us, from the time we arrived at the airport in the morning, throughout the day and at the welcome home ceremony—it is an experience I'll never forget," Nowlin says. "I can't believe so many people give their time to make this trip possible. I can't thank them enough."

Honor Flight is a critical part of Owen Electric's commitment to our community. It's a privilege to be able to



Phillip Rhea reads through notes of heartfelt thanks received during the mail call. Loved ones and friends sent notes to express their gratitude for veterans' service. Photo: Sha Phillips

fly these veterans to their memorials, and it's an opportunity to serve them in some small way for their service to our nation and our community.

"Congratulations to our 2024 Honor Flight vets. It is our privilege to honor your service to the country by sponsoring Honor Flights," says President and CEO Michael Cobb. "Our goal is to make it a memorable day for our veterans, and this year's trip was fantastic with great weather and great fellowship among veterans, their guardians and Honor Flight volunteers."

In addition to the volunteers who served as guardians for the veterans, hundreds of family members greeted veterans with a standing ovation as they returned from the day's activities in our nation's capital.

For more information about Honor Flight, go to <https://www.owenelectric.com/honor-flight>. For more photos from the 2022 Honor Flight: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/owenelectric/> albums.



Vietnam veteran Jesse Nowlin and his nephew, Doug Logan, take in the World War II Memorial, a monument honoring the past and remembering the sacrifices made. Photo: Tim Webb



Owen Electric employees and family volunteer at the airport, helping get veterans off to Washington, D.C., in the morning and welcoming them back home with a celebration that evening. At left, employee Jim Petreshock and wife, Michelle. Photo: Michael Cobb; and right, Travis Duvall and son, Trace. Photo: Whitney Duvall





# Honoring Owen Electric's veterans

## William Clark

Joint Use Coordinator, Owen Electric

1991-1995, United States Marine Corps  
Parachute Rigger/  
Heavy Drop Specialist

2001-2004, Navy  
Seabees Equipment  
Operator 2nd Class  
(E-5)



WHITNEY DUWALL

## James McCane

System Operator, Owen Electric

CE2 (SCW), United States Army

Operation Iraqi  
Freedom

Operation Enduring  
Freedom



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## Brandon Day

Service Planner, Owen Electric

Sgt. (E-5), United States Marine Corps

Operation Iraqi  
Freedom

Operation Enduring  
Freedom

Global War on  
Terrorism



WHITNEY DUWALL



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### Office Hours:

**Monday – Friday**  
**8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Toll-free 1-800-372-7612**

### Owenton Office

8205 Hwy 127 N.  
P.O. Box 400  
Owenton, KY 40359-0400  
(502) 484-3471

### Boone County Office

Florence Government Center  
8100 Ewing Blvd.  
Florence, KY 41042

### Grant County Office

300 Arbor Drive, Suite 1  
Dry Ridge, KY 41035

### Pendleton County Office

10599 Hwy 27 N.  
Butler, KY 41006

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# COOK UP *Energy Savings*

- Use your oven's full capacity by cooking several dishes simultaneously.
- Avoid peeking— each time you open the oven door, the temperature will drop, increasing cooking time and energy use.
- If available, use convection mode on your oven. It circulates heat more efficiently and cooks faster.
- Turn the oven off a few minutes early and allow residual heat to finish your dish.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.
- Plan ahead to defrost frozen items in the refrigerator rather than using the microwave.
- Let hot food cool before placing it in the refrigerator or freezer.

CANVA CREATIVE STUDIO

**Owen Electric offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29.**

All online services will be available. Report outages using the OEC Mobile app or by calling (800) 372-7612.